



August 17, 2022

Minutes

Indian Pride Park

Called to order at 7:15 PM by Chairman Birmele

Interlocal Board Members present: Birmele, Mead, Mireles, Hall
Interlocal Board Members absent: Bachman, Morsaw, Sweet
HCR Directors present: Birmele, Mead
Others present: Bianca Deckard, America May, Jason May, Lee Mireles

As the meeting began, public member America May wished to address the Interlocal board regarding ideas for several fundraising opportunities that she has put together that could be done to help raise funds for the Hartford Council for Recreation not just this year, but going forward. The board approved her request, and America presented her ideas, as well as address and answer any questions the board or additional members of the public had. Fundraising opportunities brought forth included: golf outing, gala benefit dinner, carnival, family dinner / night on the town, haunted house and spirit wear, which our organization has begun to do on a season-by-season basis. The board thanked America for her effort and time and will continue to discuss future fundraising ideas at future meetings going forward.

Motion to approve July 2022 meeting minutes made by Mead, supported by Hall. Motion approved 4-0. Before approval, Jerrod reminded the board of all the discussion topics from the meeting that we discussed, so that those who may have missed the meeting previously knew what was discussed.

Jerrod brought the board up to date with the latest treasurer's report for the past month, which showed the current balances in the General, League of Miracles and Concession funds, as well as showing the expenditures the council had in the previous month. The current balances in the accounts showed that the general account had \$8,615.14 in it, while the League of Miracles account had \$48.90 in it, and the concession account had \$2,243.06 in it. The accounts remain in solid shape all being told, consider three checks over \$1,000.00 had to be paid out of general account, which included labor, gate help for the baseball tournament (the HS softball team) and for flag football jerseys. Most income was between in-person and online signups for cheerleading and football. The concession account, outside of a small change from Huntington, remained unchanged from the previous month, while the League of Miracles account showed several small withdrawals (which initially took the account into negative territory), and one deposit that took the account from the 'red' to the 'black'.

While discussing the treasurer's report and money accounts, Rick raised a question regarding the collection of fees from the baseball and softball season, which sat at roughly around \$1,000.00. Board members, including Jerrod, Marilyn and Megan, along with Joe (who wasn't at the meeting) have been attempting for a number of months to collect the fees, as certain accounts promised to pay, in addition to others credit cards either rejecting payments or not having enough in the accounts to pull the complete amount. The board and the public in attendance all discussed ways to handle the situation going forward and brought a plethora of great ideas to the conversation. In the interim, Rick asked who was playing fall sports that had not paid from the spring, and Megan relayed that only one family was in that scenario, and that the money would be collected from that family before their young participant would be eligible to play football. As of this meeting, all the remainder of the participants had paid for both spring and fall sports, which is good news. In addition, the board suggested it would be 'okay' taking on participants for a sponsorship, but that it might be best if the families asking for sponsorships had some sort of documentation the board could look at to support their request.

Going forward, the board agreed that the best idea would be to accept all signups, paid or not, but that, looking into the future, if participants do not pay up front, that they will not be drafted onto a team or called by a coach until the full payment is received. In terms of the spring signups from 2022, Jerrod has a list on his computer at work of who paid and who still owes the council their full payments, and will send to Marilyn and Megan to make follow up contacts with the phone numbers we have on file and collect as much money as we can.

With baseball and softball being completed, the board moved on to discussing our fall sports – cheerleading and football. Practices have started for rocket football (as of August 8th) and cheerleading (August 15th) but practices for flag football will not begin until August 22nd (next Monday). Jerrod mentioned between the three sports that over 100 participants signed up, which is pretty much in-line with previous years (2020 saw a tick-up in football signups due to us being one of the only communities offering football during the pandemic). In terms of in-person versus online, it was noted that roughly 40% (based on 100 signups) were online, and online signups are great, because they must pay prior to the registration form being sent to us. Jerrod mentioned going online for all sports in the future, but the issue lies where some families do not have access to a computer or internet, and we could miss quite a few participants doing it that way.

Continuing with cheerleading and football, it was mentioned that Hartford is hosting the annual scrimmage on August 27th at the high school football field, which will include us, Coloma, South Haven and Watervliet. In terms of the regular season schedule, we will be hosting a few games this year (roughly three or four), with the tentative schedule showing us opening the season with a home game against Marcellus on Saturday, September 10th. Jerrod has made contact with Abel and Brad at the school level to give them these dates and make sure that the football facilities and locker rooms are reserved to be open on those days for our games.

The discussion turned to the upcoming scrimmage and making sure that we had enough volunteers to run the weigh-in's and concession, since Marilyn would like to spend her time away from the concession and watch her young man play, something she hasn't been able to do for a number of years. It was suggested by the board and the public that the best option would be to create a phone list of the players, as well as have a sheet made for the 'Back to School Bash' to put at the table the recreation council has reserved. The critical thing is covering the scrimmage first, and

then, we can start the process of getting the regular season covered by volunteers. In terms of the scrimmage, Jerrod and Marilyn both suggested that they would bring their laptops and help Lee with the weigh-in process that morning, with the scrimmages beginning after that process is complete.

Jerrod brought the board up to date on basketball, which will be coming up before we know it. We will hold our first signup for basketball at our table during the 'Back to School Bash' on August 24th from 5:00 to 7:00 PM. Bianca Deckard offered to help run the table, and Marilyn also agreed to help at the table if she didn't have to represent the school in any manner. Bianca requested basketball signup forms for that event, in addition to a few sponsorship forms, as she had some interested parties that wanted to donate specifically for football. Jerrod mentioned that any sponsorship forms are online, and companies could just print them off themselves and mail them in, since they have our mailing address at the top. In addition, America May suggested creating a flyer for the 'Back to School Bash' to place on our Facebook page, in addition to creating additional signage for our table.

Continuing with basketball, Megan mentioned us setting dates for cut off on basketball signups, especially in-terms of girls basketball, which typically starts their season right as the football season concludes closer to the end of October. Jerrod mentioned we could cut off signups on September 15th for the girls and December 15th for the boys and the board agreed, while Jerrod also added he could attempt to get the signups created online, so that could make it easier for families to sign up, without us having to create several in-person dates.

In new business, Jerrod mentioned that members of the school board and school community have talked to multiple board members regarding changing the HCR logo from the Indian head logo we currently use. The board agreed we need to make a change, so Jerrod sent the board a logo he had Josh Fairbanks create. The board, however, felt that it might be a good idea to use the school athletic logo, instead, and keep lockstep with them, while creating our own little touch to it. The school logo is trademarked, so it would be wise to ask the school for permission before we create something like that. Marilyn mentioned she would talk to Brad to get an okay and would bring an answer to the next board meeting.

Next meeting will be September 21, 2022 at 7:00 PM.

Motion to adjourn by Hall, supported by Birmele. Motion approved 4-0.

Birmele adjourned the meeting at 8:20 PM.

Submitted by
Megan Mireles
Interlocal Board Secretary